



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/715,820	11/19/2003	Yuichi Shimasaki	108426-00043	3653

4372 7590 06/15/2005  
ARENT FOX PLLC  
1050 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W.  
SUITE 400  
WASHINGTON, DC 20036

EXAMINER

TRAN, BINH Q

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3748

DATE MAILED: 06/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

C

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/715,820	<b>Applicant(s)</b> SHIMASAKI ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> BINH Q. TRAN	<b>Art Unit</b> 3748	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11/19/2003</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

*Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by Murachi et al.*

*(Murachi) (Patent Number 5,746,989).*

Regarding claims 1, 5, and 9, Murachi discloses a method and apparatus for exhaust gas purification device for an internal-combustion engine (1), said device comprising: a particulate filter (7) disposed in an exhaust system (3) of the engine for trapping particulates contained in the exhaust gas; timing determining means (20) for determining a regeneration timing to remove the particulates trapped by the particulate filter; intake air amount reducing means (6) for

Art Unit: 3748

reducing an intake air amount to be taken into the internal-combustion engine in response to the determination of the regeneration timing (e.g. See col. 7, lines 20-67; col. 8, lines 1-5; col. 12, lines 54-67; col. 13, lines 1-58); combustion maintaining means for maintaining combustion in the engine in a desired condition in response to reduction of the intake air amount (e.g. See col. 9, lines 5-67; col. 10, lines 1-65); and heating means (5a) for heating the particulate filter to regenerate the particulate filter (e.g. See col. 7, lines 20-67; col. 8, lines 1-5; col. 10, lines 47-64).

Regarding claims 2, 6, and 10, Murachi further discloses that the combustion maintaining means performs a feedback control to converge an air/fuel ratio in the exhaust system of the internal-combustion engine to a predetermined desired air/fuel ratio when the intake air amount is reduced by the intake air amount reducing means (e.g. See col. 7, lines 20-67; col. 8, lines 1-5; col. 12, lines 54-67; col. 13, lines 1-58)

Regarding claims 3, 7, and 11, Murachi further discloses that the device is configured to supply unburned fuel into the exhaust gas when the heating means is activated (e.g. See col. 7, lines 20-67; col. 8, lines 1-5; col. 12, lines 54-67; col. 13, lines 1-58)

Regarding claims 4, 8, and 12, Murachi further discloses that the device is configured to supply unburned fuel into the exhaust gas when a predetermined time elapses after the heating means started to be activated (e.g. See col. 9, lines 5-67; col. 10, lines 1-65)

### ***Prior Art***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure and consists of five patents:

Minami et al. (Pat. No. 6823661), Igarashi et al. (Pat. No. 6817174), Itoh et al. (Pat. No. 6786041), Ootake (Pat. No. 6698192), Enga (Pat. No. 4509327), and Kuentler et al. (Pat. No. 6644020) all disclose an exhaust gas purification for use with an internal combustion engine.

### *Conclusion*

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Binh Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-4865. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas E. Denion, can be reach on (571) 272-4859. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9306 for regular communications and for After Final communications.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

BT  
June 08, 2005



Binh Q. Tran  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 3748